

From JOHN NELSON.

"I have spent some time having a close look at my Gregory Rowcliffe etc. perfins after reading the Dave Hill/Rosemary Smith article. I have never heard that country solicitors were not allowed to set up practice in London. The reason why they appoint London agents is so that they do not need to give up the time and have the expense of coming up to London whenever they are required to appear at preliminary Court proceedings or to carry out completions of property sales and other routine work.

"Solicitors always stored their correspondence and papers for as long as they could but with the closing down and amalgamation of small practices and the increased cost of storage space there has more recently been a tendency to clear these papers out and for the covers to find their way on to the stamp market. A good case in point is the firm of Greg & Procter of Kirby Lonsdale who used Gregory Rowcliffe as London agents and to whom quite a lot of the London firm's perfin covers now in the hands of collectors were addressed.

"I can contribute the following additional dates to those in the article but these are just on stamps and not covers:

G0970.05 - 30-11-94

G1005.01 - 13-07-87

G4290.01 - 2-10-64 (3d Forth Road Bridge with 2 strikes)

R1060.01 - 15-11-87

"In the mid 1960's I contacted Gregory Rowcliffe about their perforating press but they were very secretive. All I was able to get out of them was that it was very old, was round in shape and was operated by pressing a large circular knob at the end of a handle. I asked if I might be allowed to call in and

have a look at it but was told that this would not be possible as it was kept in the ladies lavatory (an excuse of convenience if ever there was one!!).

"Some years later when it came to my notice that they were using a franking machine I contacted the firm again but was told that the press was no longer there and no-one seemed to know what had become of it.

"The indication that the press was round in shape could mean that it was of a kind known to have been made by Sloper which was fitted with more than one die and by revolving the operating handle the die required could be selected."

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